

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /051 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MHMAUGHAN:AIC

APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:DAKORN

NEA/P - MR. SHERMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: MOPS, IZ, IR, US

SUBJECT: IRAQI CHARGE THAT HAWK MISSILE USED TO DOWN IRAQI
AIRCRAFT

1. PRESS REPORTS QUOTE IRAQI NEWS AGENCY AS STATING IRAQI
MILITARY HIGH COMMAND CHARGES IRANIAN FORCES USED U.S. HAWK
MISSILES TO SHOOT DOWN 2 IRAQI MILITARY AIRCRAFT OVER IRAQI
TERRITORY DEC. 14 AND 15.

2. AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING DEC. 17, DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN
MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION THIS SUB-
JECT:

QUOTE -

Q - DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE ANY INTEREST OR CONCERN IN
THE REPORT FROM THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT THAT THE AMERICAN MIS-
SILES, IN THE HANDS OF THE IRANIAN ARMED FORCES, WERE USED
TO SHOOT DOWN IRAQI PLANES?

A - I HAVE SEEN THESE REPORTS ALSO. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMED
REPORTS THAT ANY PLANES HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN. BUT ON THE
QUESTION OF HAWK MISSILES THE ONLY THING THAT I CAN TELL
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YOU, IS THAT THERE ARE NO HAWK MISSILES IN THE HANDS OF THE

IRANIAN MILITARY, BECAUSE THEY ARE CURRENTLY IN TRANSIT AND HAVE NOT ARRIVED YET. SO I DON'T SEE HOW ANY HAWK MISSILES COULD HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THIS PARTICULAR STORY THAT WAS IN THE PRESS THIS MORNING.

Q - DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER, THERE, ON THE IRANIAN-IRAQI REPORT?

A - NO, I DON'T.

Q - YOU SAY THE HAWK MISSILES ARE QUOTE IN TRANSIT END QUOTE TO IRAN AND HAVEN'T ARRIVED YET?

A - YES.

Q - DO YOU KNOW IF THERE ARE ANY OTHER KINDS OF SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE THAT --

A - I DO NOT KNOW. NO. END QUOTE.

3. YOU SHOULD BRING THE FOREGOING TEXT OF TRANSCRIPT FROM DEPARTMENT DEC. 17 PRESS BRIEFING TO IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. KISSINGER

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